

**Remarks**

Claims 22-24 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form. The claims other than 22-24 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



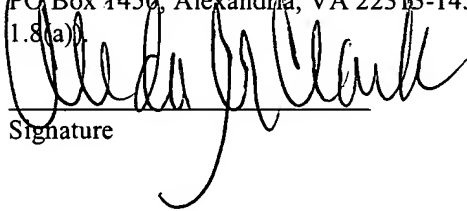
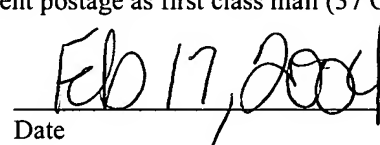
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on February 17, 2004 with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Mail Stop Non- Fee Amendment, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with sufficient postage as first class mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)).

  
Signature  
Date